

Appl. No. 10/064,046
Amdt. dated March 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 12, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arita et al. (US 5,432,530) in view of Jackson (US 6,611,139) and Arita et al. (US 5,504,502).

Response:

The previously presented claim 1 is shown below for reference. No amendments to the claims have been made.

"Claim 1. (previously presented) A pointing device for a computer comprising:

a body;

a magnetic field source for generating a magnetic field having a direction relative to a measurement location and a magnitude proportional to a distance between the magnetic field source and the measurement location;

a magnetic field sensor for measuring the magnitude and direction of the magnetic field generated by the magnetic field source at a measurement location, and outputting an electrical signal corresponding to the magnitude and direction of the magnetic field at the measurement location;

a flexible member for allowing and controlling a relative movement of the magnetic field source and the magnetic field sensor, the flexible member and magnetic field source forming a critically dampened system such that when a force is applied to an end of the flexible member the relative position of the magnetic field sensor with respect to the magnetic field source is changed in a direction of the force by a distance proportional to the force;

a processor for receiving the electrical signals output by the magnetic field sensor, and generating a corresponding location signal of the pointing

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device; and
a transmission system for conveying the location signal from the processor to
the computer.”

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The Examiner has stated on page 4 of the above indicated office action that
“Jackson and Arita et al. ('530) do not show the flexible member and magnetic field
source forming a critically dampened system.” The Examiner goes on to say that
Arita et al. ('502) teaches a flexible member and a magnetic field source forming a
critically dampened system in col.7, lines 21-44.

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However, the applicant respectfully disagrees that Arita et al. ('502) teaches a
critically dampened system. In col.7, lines 29-32, Arita et al. ('502) teaches that a
garter spring 34 is used to return the slider 10 to its origin position. Arita et al. ('502),
like Jackson (US 6,611,139), teaches the use of return springs and not the use of
dampened springs. Neither Jackson nor Arita et al. ('502) mention the importance of
critical damping to the springing arrangement of the upper portion of the pointing
device housing of the cited invention.

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A critically dampened system, as is recited in claim 1, reduces or eliminates the
oscillations or bouncing experienced by a spring. Therefore, the use of the critically
dampened system helps to prevent the pointing device from generating the wrong
pointing signals due to bouncing. Therefore, due to the significance of the critically
dampened system to the claimed pointing device and the fact that none of the cited
prior art references teach a critically dampened system, claim 1 is patentable over the
cited prior art references. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, and 10-13 are dependent on claim 1, and
should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-3, 6, 8, and
10-13 is respectfully requested.

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2. Rejection of claims 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Arita et al. ('530), Arita et al. ('502), and Jackson in view of Sava et al. (US
5 4,459,578).

Response:

Claims 4 and 9 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is
allowed. Reconsideration of claims 4 and 9 is requested.

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3. Rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arita et
al. ('530), Arita et al. ('502), and Jackson in view of Clymer et al. (US 5,525,901).

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Response:

Claim 5 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.
Reconsideration of claim 5 is requested.

4. Rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

20 Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arita et
al. ('530), Arita et al. ('502), and Jackson in view of Kruse et al. (US 5,259,252).

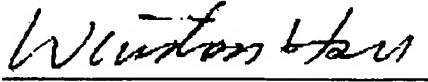
Response:

25 Claim 7 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.
Reconsideration of claim 7 is requested.

In light of the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant
respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



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5 Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.
Voice Mail: 302-729-1562
Facsimile: 806-498-6673
e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

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